THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There could be some loss of market share of VSNL initially when the international communication service is opened to other operators.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices in Assam

2601. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade branch Post Offices in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is a target of opening of 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Assam Circle in the year 2001-2002 which includes Departmental Sub Post Offices to be opened through upgradation also. There is a proposal to upgrade Gerukamukh branch Post Office in Dhemaji District to Sub Post Office, subject to availability of resources.

Clearance of telephone waiting list in Rajasthan

2602. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answers to Unstarred Questions 1738 and 1622 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August and 5th December, 2000 respectively, and state :

(a) whether the two applicants wait-listed for new telephone connections one each in village Norangpur and Noranpura Bas in Tehsil Mahwa, Dausa District of Rajasthan are still waiting for connections and no action has been taken by the authorities in this regard;

(b) whether despite letters by Members of Parliament to give telephone connections from their own quota no action has been taken in this regard; and